

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Christopher Wright
Date of Birth: 27/06/1983
Care Setting: Gorbridge childrens home- mid lothian
Dates: 1963
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

I was very emotional and vulnerable when I was taken away from my family. At that time, I did not fully understand what was happening, and it caused me a lot of confusion and distress. After this, I was placed with two foster families, and during that period I did feel loved, cared for, and supported. For the first time, I experienced some sense of stability and safety, and those placements meant a lot to me.

However, when I reached around the age of 14 or 15, I was moved into a children's home. From the moment I arrived there, everything changed. There was no empathy, no understanding, and no support to help me adjust to such a significant change. I went from feeling cared for to feeling completely unwanted again.

Almost immediately, I experienced serious bullying from both other children and staff. From the day I arrived, I was called names and made to feel like I did not belong. Staff would tell me directly that I was unwanted, which had a deep impact on my self-worth and mental wellbeing.

We were often locked in our rooms for long periods. Sometimes this was presented as protection from the other children, but it was also used as punishment. Being locked away made me feel isolated, trapped, and powerless.

One of the most distressing parts of my experience there was the constant bullying and physical assaults from other children. The staff would allow this to happen and would sometimes stand by and laugh while I was being hurt. This happened to me on a daily basis. I felt like I was being deliberately targeted and tormented, and there was no one there to protect me.

Food was available, but many times I was too afraid to leave my room because of the other children. I lived in constant fear of being attacked, and as a result, I would often go without eating. I was made to feel worthless and completely powerless.

Family visits were stopped, which made me feel even more unwanted and alone. My foster parents did still come to visit me from time to time, and those visits meant everything to me. All I wanted was to go back and be with them again, where I had felt safe and cared for.

The abuse I experienced here was mainly mental and physical. I was bullied within the home and then sent

to school, where I was also bullied badly. There was no escape from it. I felt like no one cared about me or wanted me, and I had nowhere I could feel safe.

I remained in this environment until 2003, living with constant bullying and fear. My education was severely affected because I could not concentrate or feel safe enough to learn. I struggled with basic day-to-day activities and missed out on having a normal childhood.

I felt extremely isolated and alone, with no one to turn to. The impact of these experiences has stayed with me throughout my life. I continue to feel scared of people, and I suffer from severe PTSD, depression, and anxiety, all of which I have been diagnosed with.

I experience nightmares and relive situations from that time, which makes it difficult for me to move forward. I struggle with everyday life and have found it very difficult to build relationships or trust others.

I will never forget how I was treated and how I was failed by the people who were supposed to care for me. These experiences have had a lasting and damaging effect on my life, and I continue to live with the consequences every day.